

In the Claims:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein purified to a state capable of being sequenced and comprising a sequence ~~essentially as set forth in~~ having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

25-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A purified composition, wherein the purified composition comprises a functionally active HARE polypeptide, wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide is purified to a state capable of being sequenced and has an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and an amino acid sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:25~~ that is at least about 76% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

43-87. (Canceled)

88. (Currently Amended) A purified mammalian HARE comprising:
a protein having a molecular ~~weight~~ mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the HARE protein is purified to a state capable of being sequenced and comprises a sequence ~~essentially as set forth in at least one of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:25~~ having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

89. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

90. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

91. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

92. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein

comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

93. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

94. (New) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

95. (New) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

96. (New) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

97. (New) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 90% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

98. (New) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

99. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

100. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

101. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

102. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

103. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

104. (New) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein being substantially free of other proteins and comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

105. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

106. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

107. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

108. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

109. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

110. (New) A purified mammalian HARE comprising:

a protein having a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the HARE protein is substantially free of other proteins and comprises a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

111. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

112. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

113. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

114. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

115. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

116. (New) A mammalian HARE, comprising:

a recombinant protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the recombinant protein comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

117. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

118. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

119. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant

protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

120. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

121. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

122. (New) A mammalian HARE comprising:

a recombinant protein having a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

123. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

124. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant

protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

125. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

126. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

127. (New) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

128. (New) A recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the recombinant mammalian HARE protein produced by a process comprising the steps of:

providing a recombinant host cell comprising a vector containing a recombinant DNA segment encoding a mammalian HARE protein comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2;

culturing the recombinant host cell under conditions that will allow for expression of the recombinant DNA segment, thereby producing the recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

129. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE protein of claim 128 wherein the protein has a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa.

130. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

131. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

132. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

133. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

134. (New) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.